

**FULL SCALE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DRILL**



DEVELOPED BY:

**JLN Associates, LLC**

HOSTED BY:

**LITCHFIELD FIRE COMPANY, LITCHFIELD, CT**

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## **1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this drill is to prepare the Northwest Region, for the threat of a local hazardous materials incident and test the inter-agency operability, mutual aid operability and available local, regional and state resources. Hazardous materials incidents can range from a small chemical spill that can be handled locally to a full-scale hazardous materials response that taxes available resources such as a transportation accident including local highways or railways. With the tragedy of 9/11 and the events following, the threat of terrorist activities worldwide including Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and Bioterrorism, further demonstrate the importance of planning, preparedness and training for response to hazardous materials incidents. It is important to note that these incidents may also have mass casualty impacts requiring planning and preparedness from a decontamination, triage, transport, and hospital support perspective. In addition to revealing areas of local response in need of improvement, this drill will allow the region to test existing and new emergency plans as well as the abilities and readiness of local and regional resources.

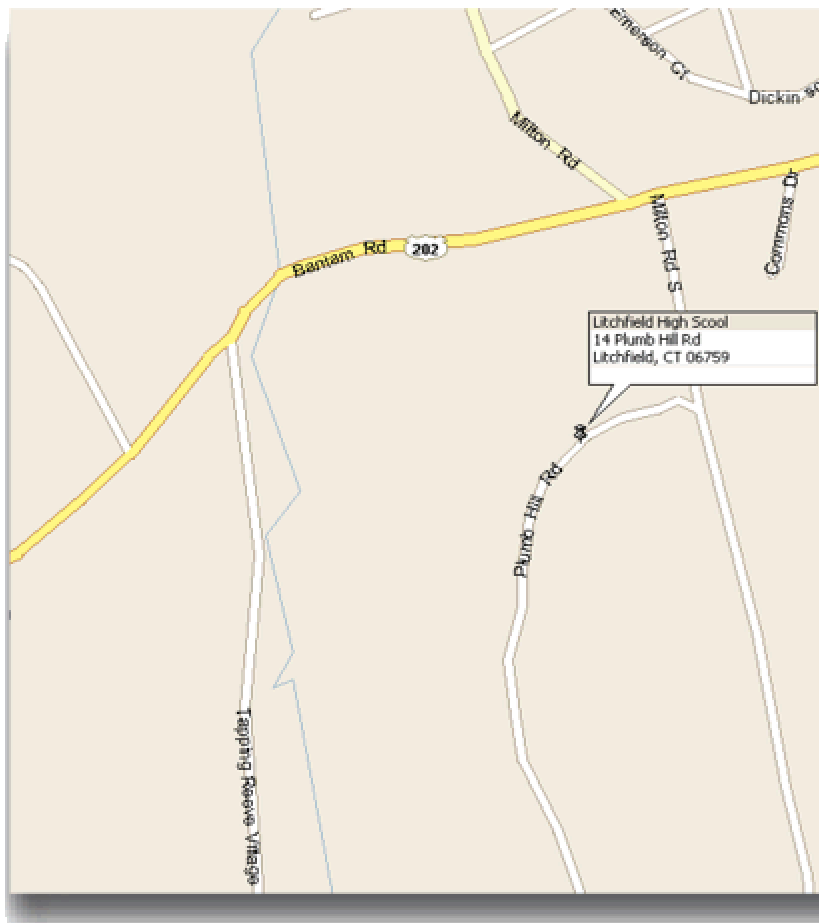
## **2. SCOPE**

The scope of the 2007 Litchfield, CT hazmat drill includes a full scale hazardous materials incident including local, regional and statewide response. The incident itself will be a transportation related incident involving hazardous materials, life safety, full scale hazardous materials response, evacuation, mass decontamination and fire suppression considerations. As the incident unfolds it will be expected that incident command will develop into unified command following the NIMS concepts. Charlotte Hospital will be participating and will accept all patients transported from the scene. Other agencies agreeing to participate are:

- a. Bantam Fire and Ambulance
- b. Campion Ambulance
- c. Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
- d. Cornwall Fire
- e. East Litchfield Fire
- f. Kent Fire
- g. Litchfield county Dispatch
- h. Litchfield Fire
- i. Litchfield Volunteer Ambulance
- j. Morris Fire
- k. New Hartford Fire
- l. Norfolk Fire
- m. Northfield Fire
- n. Terryville Fire
- o. Thomaston Fire
- p. Torrington Fire Department
- q. Washington Fire

## **3. BACKGROUND**

This drill will focus on a transportation type incident a hazardous materials type incident, evacuation considerations, related mass casualty type incident with mass decontamination, and hazmat entry operations. All scene locations will be confined to the town of Litchfield, Connecticut, primarily the school owned property housing the High School and Middle School facilities. All drill scenarios will take place in a very close proximity of time. Therefore, in order to succeed, responders will have to think ahead and be very organized with the way they allocate the personnel and resources for this drill. Specific scenario narratives will not be included in this drill plan. Players will be expected to respond to these events as if they were happening in real life and will be specifically toned-out with no prior knowledge of scenario details.



#### Driving Directions To Litchfield High School From Hartford

Take I-84 West To exit 38, Route 4 West towards Farmington and Torrington. Follow Route 4 through Farmington, Burlington, and Harwinton. Bear left at light in Harwinton (at junction of Route 4 and Route 118) on Route 118 towards Litchfield. Follow Route 118 to Litchfield. At intersection with Route 202 (stop sign) take a left onto Route 202. Take a left at the 5th light (just past Stop & Shop) onto Constitution Way. First Right is Plumb Hill Road; LHS is on your immediate right.

#### From Waterbury

Take Route 8 North to Exit 42. Take left off exit ramp. Follow Route 118 to Litchfield. At intersection with Route 202 (stop sign) take a left onto Route 202. Take a left at the 5th light (just past Stop & Shop) onto Constitution Way. First Right is Plumb Hill Road; LHS is on your immediate right.

#### From New Milford

Take Route 202 West all the way to Litchfield. Just after passing True Value Hardware (on left), take a right at stop light onto Constitution Way. First right is Plumb Hill Road; LHS is on your immediate right.

## 4. DURATION

The Litchfield 2007 drill will last approximately 5 hours.

## 5. DATE AND TIME OF DRILL

The Litchfield Drill has been scheduled for September 23<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The drill will commence at 10:00am and will stop at approximately 3:00pm. See section 13 for the schedule of events.

## 6. DRILL ORGANIZATION

The drill directors will be Adam Kerop, John Nickerson, Jason Pollard and Robert McCarthy.

Controllers at each scene will be: MVA; Hazmat; Medical. Controllers will also be in charge of safety on scene.

Evaluators at each scene will be: MVA; Hazmat; Medical.

Players have been identified above in the section titled "Scope."

Observers will have pre-determined watch points.

## **7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The *directors* coordinate all logistics of the event, initiates the start of the event and controls the flow of the event and of subsequent tone-outs, is the highest in the chain of command and has the final say in all regards. Acts as safety and controller as needed and controls timing and flow of all simulations.

*Controllers* direct the drill activities by providing messages, instructions or clarifications to participants. Controllers may prompt or initiate certain actions to assure continuity of the events, which have been designed to meet drill objectives. Controllers will also serve as safety and evaluators during this drill.

*Evaluators* will be present on each scene and are there to note all actions and help determine if objectives have been met. They do not have an active role in the drill and will not be allowed to interact with players or interfere with the flow of the drill. (Sample "Evaluator sheets" specific to each scene are located at the end of this PLAN).

*Observers* will most likely be located at each scene and consist of visitors, news media representatives, or officials viewing the drill. They are there to view all or selected portions of the drill but do not participate in the drill in any way, shape or form.

*Players* perform their normal roles during the event. LCD Dispatch is considered to be an active player in this event.

*Actors/Volunteers* are volunteers from within the department and in the community who are tasked with playing the part of a victim or acting a part relating to the incident in some way.

## **8. RULES OF CONDUCT**

All players will respond to this event as per normal protocol in the capacity that they would normally fill. Events will be dispatched by LCD. Players will not have knowledge of scenario details prior to dispatch and should not be placed in pre-assigned roles. In real world situations, responders do not have that luxury so it would be a better test for participating departments to keep details between planning members only.

## **9. SAFETY ISSUES**

The Litchfield, CT 2007 drill will be dispatched per normal protocol. The words "THIS IS A DRILL" will be stated before and after the tone-out so that players know that this is the start of the drill. This will distinguish the drill from actual emergencies. In the event of a major incident or need for additional resources, LCD dispatch will contact Incident Command and a message "END EXERCISE" will be transmitted. If, during the drill, someone is injured or becomes ill, inform command by stating "real world" this person needs medical assistance or whatever the case may be. Safety controllers on scene will have full authority to stop an action or event if the safety of participants or bystanders is in jeopardy. Please abide by their recommendations. As always, the use of drugs or alcohol on any scene is strictly prohibited and you will be asked to leave the scene if it becomes an issue. Consequences and further action may result.

## **10. LOGISTICS**

Players will be responding from the Litchfield Town Highway department garage located on . Drill specific assembly/staging areas should be designated by incident command. A staging controller will release pre-drill staged units to move up to the actual incident staging location. There are restrooms available at the School grounds as needed. The School grounds Buildings will be the staging/ initial meeting area for drill directors, controllers, evaluators, observers, actor and volunteers. Food and drinks will be provided to all participants.

## **11. SECURITY ACCESS**

Local and mutual aid Fire Police will assist with scene control and traffic issues. No personal response vehicles will be allowed into a scene. All players will also need to be wearing appropriate response attire for the given situation. Clothing must clearly identify the player as an official department member or access to the scene will be denied. All other participants such as controllers, observers and evaluators will be clearly marked with identification badges.

## 12. COMMUNICATIONS

Communications will be per normal response protocols. Statewide radio (ITAC) can be utilized as needed. Please abide by the usual radio etiquette rules. Participants will be using a fire ground frequency chosen the day of the drill for all radio traffic. An additional LCD dispatcher located at the Dispatch Headquarters will act as the main dispatch for this event. LCD may also provide an incident dispatcher as well.

Key Terms:

“THIS IS A DRILL” – To be used while dispatching drill related incidents

“PRIORITY MESSAGE” – To be used by controllers, participants, or directors during drill when important information must be relayed. When this is stated, all other radio traffic must cease to allow for communication.

“REAL WORLD” – To be used for real world messages non drill related

“END EXERCISE” – To be used if the drill must stop for any reason

## 13. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### September 23, 2007

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| 6:30am  | JLN Team Directors arrive at Drill Site   |
| 7:00am  | Drill Site Set-up to begin  |
| 8:00am  | There will be a drill staff meeting prior to the start of the event at the Litchfield School Grounds  |
| 8:30am  | Staging area to be manned and operational-  |
| 9:00am  | There will be a drill debriefing for <b><u>actors/volunteers</u></b> at the Litchfield School Grounds |
| 9:00am  | Drill Stand-by EMS to be on site  |
| 9:30am  | Drill Controllers begin placement of actors and volunteers.   |
|         | Final briefings, adjustments made, contact Director they are ready                                    |
| 9:30am  | Hospital Observers and Controllers verify they are in position and ready.                             |
| 9:45am  | Evaluators take positions   |
| 10:00am | The Drill will commence with tones from LCD   |
| 3:00pm  | The Drill will end and cleanup will commence  |
| 3:00pm  | Drill Controllers and Observers meet with Drill actors and volunteers to obtain input and feedback    |
| 3:30pm  | The drill staff will meet to discuss evaluator and controller feedback                                |
| 4:00pm  | Food will be delivered Bantam Fire Station.   |
| 4:30pm  | There will be an after drill brief to review the drill outcomes with all players                      |

## 14. DIRECTIONS TO STAGING

Maps and directions will not be given out to players as far as the locations of scenes are concerned. For all other participants who are required to check in to staging at the School grounds prior to the start of the drill, directions are given below.

## 15. STOPPING THE DRILL

The drill directors, controllers and evaluators can stop the drill or portions of the drill at any time to address safety concerns or in the event of any issues or injuries. In the event that the drill is stopped, this should be communicated to Incident Command immediately by transmitting “END EXERCISE” until the safety issues are addressed or issues are under control. The drill can re-convene under the direction of the drill directors and incident command.

## 16. RESPONSE TO ACTUAL INCIDENTS

If an actual incident occurs that requires response within Litchfield, pre-determined resources will respond as required. If additional resources are required or the incident becomes large scale, a determination will be made by the drill directors to continue the exercise or stop the exercise until the actual incident is brought under control. The drill may be able to continue with some modifications depending on the severity of the actual incident.